



Know Before You Go

Preparing to Visit a National Forest

Snakes

Snakes live in a wide variety of habitats including forests, swamps, grasslands, deserts and both fresh and salt water. Some are active at night, others during the day. Snakes are predators and eat a wide variety of animals, including rodents, insects, birds' eggs and young birds. Snakes are cold-blooded and must move to a suitable surrounding environment to regulate their body temperature. They can't survive extreme summer heat for more than 10-20 minutes and are rarely found in the open. They hibernate in the winter and may also be inactive periodically during hot summer weather.



Safety Checklist

- Before venturing out, familiarize yourself with the snakes of your area.
- Visit <http://crittercontrol.com/> for snake species identification, geographic location and more.

How To Avoid Snakebites

- Do not tease or harass snakes.
- Wear long pants and proper foot gear, especially at night.
- Try as much as possible not to surprise a snake.
- Stay on trails and watch where you place your hands and feet, especially when climbing or stepping over fences, large rocks and logs or when collecting firewood.

How To Treat Snakebites

- If someone is bit by a snake, call 911 and seek medical attention immediately.
- Keep the snakebite victim still, as movement helps the venom spread through the body.
- Keep the injured body part motionless and just lower than heart level.
- Keep the victim warm, calm and at rest.
- Do not allow the person to eat or drink anything.